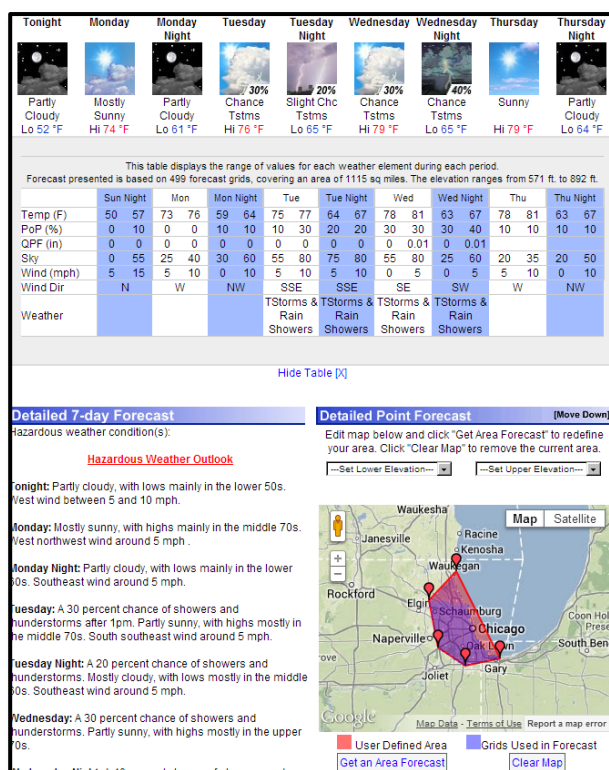
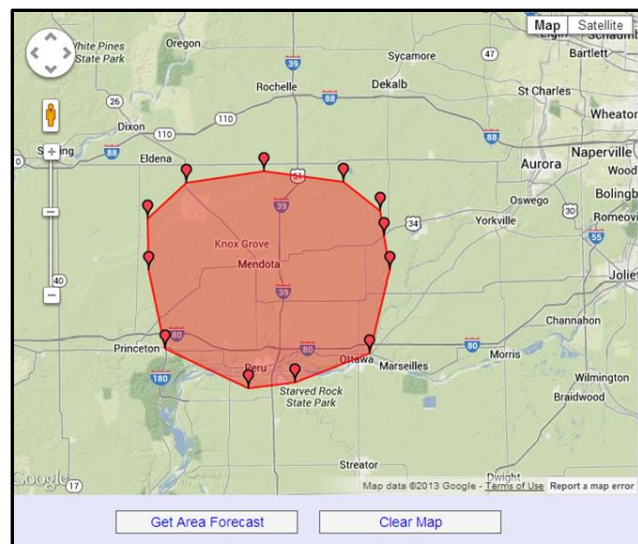




# New Display Option for NWS Forecasts: User-Defined Area Forecast



The NWS is offering a web-based forecast service where users can designate the geographic area they desire a forecast for. This user-defined area forecast extracts the NWS digital forecast data within the specified domain and creates a forecast average from it. The grid points used in this forecast have been part of the NWS point and click forecast for years that is provided on our home page, but this new ability allows for customized selection of a region. This user-defined area forecast has a link that can be bookmarked and called upon anytime for an updated forecast for that same specified area.



The interface uses a Google Maps background (see above) allowing a user to draw their own forecast area. When at least three edge points are specified, the inside forecast can quickly be calculated and one can specify as many edge points as they want.

Once clicking “Get Area Forecast”, the presentation is similar to the point and click forecasts. An example can be seen to the left. One addition is a table that gives a range of the forecast elements within the selected area. This includes the chance of precipitation (PoP), amount of rain (QPF), amount of clouds (Sky), and more. One can glean quickly from this table if forecast conditions are to vary greatly over the area or be more uniform. The forecast area can be further redefined on the map insert. For requested domains that encompass parts of Lake Michigan, only the land area will be calculated, as one will often not want to average both land and marine forecasts.

The link to this experimental NWS service is on the left-hand column of the [NWS Chicago home page](#), and can be accessed through the link below. Please feel free to try it out and share, along with submitting your thoughts through an available [survey](#).

## User-Defined Area Forecast

National Weather Service Chicago, Illinois | [weather.gov/chicago](#)